*[Translation]*

**Delay in Postal Mail Delivery**

3328. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inordinate delay being caused in distribution of mail delivery;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure the speedy disposal of letters and other postal materials?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). Generally, there is no inordinate delay in delivery of mails. However, some instances of delays do occur due to various reasons such as cancellation/late running of buses, trains and planes, natural calamities like floods landslides and due to exceptionally heavy volume of mails like Corporate mail and Greeting Mail. Difficulties are encountered in the conveyance of mails by State Road Transport buses or private buses in some States. Delivery of mails in large cities and towns, especially in the newly developed colonies and suburbs, is also under stress due to inadequate delivery manpower. The additional work is, however, being managed through re-deployment of the staff to the extent possible.

The Department has taken various steps to improve the despatch and delivery of mails. These are :—

- Sorting of machineable mail in Bombay and Madras is being done on Letter Sorting Machines to expedite sorting.
- In the case of mails posted in bulk, the mailers are encouraged to do pre-sorting to ensure expeditious transmission of such mails to the destination.
- Special arrangements are made to sort and despatch Corporate Mails and Festival Greeting Mails posted in the peak season of June to December.
- Rationalisation of mail processing by prioritised and segmented handling of mails of different categories according to their time-sensitivity.
- Monitoring of mail movement and main processing at various levels by intensive visits to Post Offices and RMS offices by inspecting officers, testing the Mail efficiency by posting Test Letters and periodical check of transit time of live mails
- Daily delivery of mails is made in villages for which mails arrive subject to weather conditions and operational compulsions. Regular monitoring of rural mail collection and delivery network is done.
- The transmission and delivery of mails and money order is continuously monitored at various levels and routeing of mails is revised periodically after review.

**Losses in Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants**

3329. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount invested so far on the modernisation of Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants, so far;

(b) whether the above Steel Plants have been incurring losses continuously for the last many years;

(c) if so, the details thereof as on March 31, 1996;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to make the above Steel Plants profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The expenditure incurred on the modernisation of Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants of SAIL upto July, 1996 is given below :

| | (Rs.in Crores) |
|---|---|
| Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) | 3039.75 |
| Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) | 4307.15 |

(b) and (c). RSP which has been making profits since 1984-85 suffered losses during 1995-96 due to factors such as higher input costs, outdated equipments, obsolete technology etc. DSP has been suffering losses continuously since 1982-83, on account of factors such as lower capacity utilisation, logistic imbalances, ageing of the plant, obsolete technology etc. The position as on 31st March, 1996 is as follows:

(Rs. in Crores)

| | Profit/Loss (–) For the year 1995-96 | Cummulative as on 31.3.1996 |
|---|---|---|
| RSP | (–) 56.64 | 283.42 |
| DSP | (–) 173.98 | (–) 1491.82 |

Modernisation of both the plants is in progress and their performance would improve after the new units are stabilised.